

## 7. A FOSSIL WHIPTAIL SCORPION FROM CABRILLO BEACH

In November, 1944, Mr. E. E. Hadley found a piece of shale lying on the Cabrillo Beach shore at San Pedro, California, which contained the crushed remains of a whiptail scorpion. The writer has seen only one other fossil in this group, from Mexican onyx, and knows of no fossil species having been described. The specimen is too badly crushed to give any adequate description of the appendages, but deserves to be placed on record.

Order PEDIPALPI Latreille

Family THELIPHONIDAE Lucas

Genus THELYPHONUS Latreille, sens. lat.

*THELYPHONUS HADLEYI*, new species. (Plate 5).

This species is dedicated to its finder, Mr. E. E. Hadley, a member of the Southern California Academy of Sciences and a

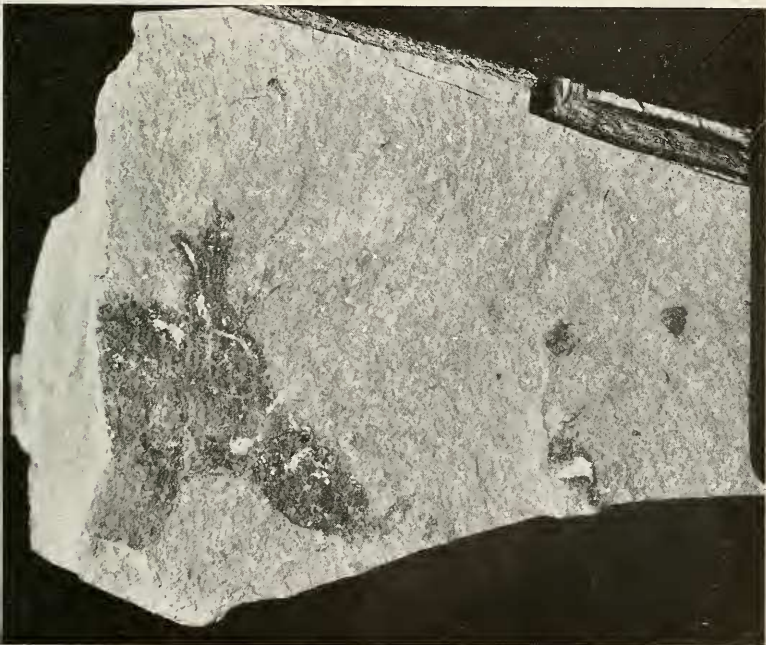


PLATE 5

*Thelyphonus hadleyi* Pierce; fossil whiptail scorpion from Middle Miocene Monterey shale found on shore at San Pedro, Calif.

collaborator of the Los Angeles County Museum, working in Invertebrate Paleontology. It is recorded under Accession Number A6, and in Paleontology records as S 9008.

The shale is probably of local origin, for a bank of diatomaceous shale above where it was found contains many rocks of this type imbedded at various levels. It is Middle Miocene, Monterey shale.

Total length 22 mm., cephalothorax 7x3 mm., abdomen 9x4 mm. Only a part of the tail is present, and the heavy chelicerae are so crushed that their character is indeterminate. The photograph by Mr. Marry gives better detail than a description can.

## 8. A CASE OF PLEISTOCENE MYIASIS FROM THE LA BREA PITS (Plate 6)

In examining bone fragments of the giant fossil bird, *Terrornis merriami*, found in the La Brea Pits, Hancock Park, Los Angeles, Dr. Hildegard Howard found a piece of the proximal end of a humerus which contained 8 puparia of a blow fly. The exact site of this find was pit 3, at depth of 21½ feet. The period of the material in these pits is Pleistocene.

A reconstruction of the story is probably thus: One of these giant birds alighted on an animal caught in the tar, and began to feed upon it. In the process, it also became caught in the tar and fell prey to a predatory animal, such as the sabretooth tiger. This animal crushed the bones, exposing them to the blowing by flies. Undoubtedly the tiger was caught also. Blowfly attack occurs within the first two or three days after death, and one can assume about 15 days for the fly larvae to develop, pupate and mature. Some of them had matured, others were caught when the bone finally became submerged in the tar. This constitutes the first dipterous evidence from the tar pits.

Order DIPTERA Linnaeus

Family METOPIIDAE Curran

Genus PROTOCHRYSOMYIA, new genus

PROTOCHRYSOMYIA HOWARDAE, *new species*

Named in honor of Dr. Hildegard Howard, Curator of Avian Paleontology of the Los Angeles County Museum and a member of the Southern California Academy of Sciences. Recorded by the Museum as S 9009 in bone fragment B2309.

Fly puparia, reddish brown in color, 8x3 mm., convex